THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY

VOLUME XXXIV.
NUMBER 47.

CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1887.

Per Annum in Advance
TOWN 11-8
MOFUSSIL 13-4

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER.

THE Executive in England continue in their policy of mistaken "firmness" with regard to the Unemployed Labour question. Sir Charles Warren has issued a new notice forbidding the passage of any processions through the streets adjoining or leading to Trafalgar Square, and he urges all orderly persons to abstain from loitering in the vicinity on Sunday. Up to the 19th instant twelve thousand persons were enrolled as special constables.

AT the election of the Lord Rector of the Glasgow University, two names were brought forward, that of Lord Lytton and that of Lord Rosebery, who was Lord Rector of the sister university of Aberdeen in 1878-79 and of Edinburgh in 1880-84. The votes were declared exactly even, when the Chancellor of the University gave his casting vote in favour of Lord Lytton, who was accordingly declared duly elected. From a literary point of view perhaps the selection is not far amiss, whatever it may be from other points of view. But how can the absentee French ambassador discharge his supposed duties?

THE Czar on his way from Copenhagen to St. Petersburg passed through Germany. An interview took place on the 18th instant between the Czar and the Emperor of Germany at Berlin and was of a most cordial character. After the interview between the Emperors was closed, Prince Bismarck paid a visit to the Czar. Their Imperial Majesties, the Czar and Czarina, left for St. Petersburg in the evening. The Czar was specially gracious to Prince Bismarck during the interview that took place before His Majesty left for St. Petersburg. The Emperor William has conferred the Royal Prussian Order of the Black Eagle on Count Schouvaloff, the Russian Ambassador at the German Court. The cordialites bode evil for France. The French Military Scandals are bearing mischeivous fruits already.

FRANCE is internally disorganised enough. The French Ministry has resigned in consequence of the Chamber of Deputies having refused to adjourn the debate on the motion of the Extreme party on domestic policy. President Grevy has summoned M. Freycinet to confer on the situation. The French papers urge M. Grevy to resign, but he declared that he will remain in office for the full time for which he was elected, as he holds the belief that it is unconstitutional to yield to the pressure of Parliament. He has, however, since made up his mind to retire.

THE Telegraph to Lundi Kotal is now completed.

MR. LEE-WARNER has been confirmed in his officiating appointment as Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

THE head quarters of the consulting Engineer to Government for State Railways is to be transferred from Agra to Jubbulpore. Have the proposed Central Provinces Railways anything to do with the change?

MR. H. J. PARSONS, lately acting as Judicial Commissioner in Sind, succeeds the Hon. Mr. West on the bench of the Bombay High Court.

MR. E. J. SINKINSON, Accountant-General, Bombay, succeeds Mr. E T. Atkinson as Secretary to the Government of India in the Financial Department.

THE Madras Government has sanctioned the continuance of the old scale of rewards for killing tigers in the Vizagapatam district of that Presidency, viz., Rs. 100 for each tiger killed. The district has the unenviable reputation of reckoning nearly all its tigers as man-eaters, and as their destruction is therefore very desirable, the old scale has been allowed to obtain there.

A REPORT has been issued by the Committee of the *Sir John Lawrence* and *Retriever* Relief Fund, with a list of the persons relieved. The amount subscribed to the Fund is Rs. 8,046-4, and the expenditure is Rs. 7,890-11-8. The Committee again appeal to the public for help, specially to enable them to assist the families of Captain Irvine, of Mr. Smith, the Chief Officer of the *Sir John Lawrence*, and of Mr. Geirtz, the Chief Engineer of the *Ritriever*. European names figure most prominently in the list of the relieved.

TUESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER.

THE first annual report upon Income-Tax in Bengal does not show that the Exchequer was replenished to any very formidable interest. It is therefore fully worth considering whether some more suitable means of filling empty State coffers cannot be invented to replace this harassing and "oderous" mode.

THE total number of persons assessed in Calcutta and Bengal finally, after due exemptions, was 105, 611, of whom all but 1,100 paid the tax. The total demand was Rs. 39-36,958, of which Rs. 76,300 remains unpaid, and will probably not be paid. The cost of the tax was Rs. 2,84,219, and the net revenue was Rs. 35,76,439. The average incidence of the tax was one rupee to every nineteen persons: in Singhbum it was one rupee to every 102 persons, and in Calcutta it was nearly two rupees-and-a-half to each person. Objections to the assessment were filed by 29,413 persons, or 27·5 per cent. of the total number assessed, and 14,145 of the objectors gained their point. Penalties were levied on 6,439 persons to the amount of Rs. 66,537. Distress warrants were issued in 11,780 cases, but property was distrained in only 6,242 cases, and actually sold in 808 cases. In consequence of a case of embezzlement by a clerk in Hughli who received the tax in person from assessees, all officers of the Income-tax Department have been warned to have no cash transactions, but to direct assessees to pay their tax into the treasury.

THE question of the exploration of the country between the Chittagong frontier and Upper Burma still awaits decision, but General White is arranging for a force to sweep the Yaw country clear right up to the Eastern Lushai border

A TELEGRAM from Bankipur says:—A crowded and enthusiastic meeting of residents of Patna was convened by the Behar Peoples' Association yesterday evening at the Bankipur Bar Library premises. Over one thousand persons were present. The Chairman read a letter of sympathy from Mr. John, Barrister, who was to preside, but was unavoidably absent. Jaynarayan Bajpye presided. The first resolution, moved by Moulvi AmeerHyder, expressed the meeting's sympathy with the National Congress. The second Resolution, moved by Moulvi Nisaral Huq, elected the following delegates:—Moulvis Shurfuddin, Ameer Hydar, Taffazud Hussein, Babus Jaynarayan Bajpye, Iswarprasad, Baldeoram, Rajaram, Guru Prasad Sen, Bisseswar Singh, Gajadhar Prasad, Narayan Prasad, Saligram Sing, Govinda Charan, Kuldip Sahaye, Deonath Sahaye, Radhakishore, Raghoonandan Prasad, Jairaj Bahadur, Nobin Chunder Dey. The list includes barristers, pleaders, zemindars, bankers, merchants, Honorary Magistrates, Municipal Commissioners, and Professors. So the exertions of our friend Nawab Abdul Latif who, it is said, went up to Bankipur expressly for the purpose of dissuading his co-religionists from joining the movement have gone for nothing. We were not prepared to hear that our astute friend should have made so false move.

MR. Robert Turnbull, the popular Secretary of the present Corporation of Calcutta and the late Justices has sent in his papers for retiring on pension. On Saturday last the Town Council of the Corporation, in consideration of Mr. Turnbull's long and useful career as their Secretary, recommended the grant to him of a pension of Rs. 600 per mensem instead of Rs. 500, the amount that was settled as his retiring pension some years ago. The municipality will lose in Mr. Turnbull the ablest and most upright man it ever had in its service. It will be long before it will be able to obtain his equal. We sincerely regret to lose him from our midst. He is a person who never had an enemy.

THE Jubilee gift of the Sultan of Johore to the Queen is a wonderful piece of costly uselessness. It is a massive gold reproduction of the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park. All the marble in the Memorial is represented by gold save the steps, which are of solid silver. The gold under the dome and around the pediment is beautified by the most minute mosaic work, representing almost stone for the stone mosaics on the actual monument. This extraordinarily rich ornament cost its donor no less than £15,000. It is almost the richest thing that Queen Victoria has received this year from a single giver. It is the Sultan's acknowledgment of the honor which has been done him by the advance. rank which her Majesty has granted to him from Maharaja to Sultan.

THE stud and horned cattle of the late king of Oudh have been sold—almost for a song. His princely menagerie now awaits the same fate. The collection is one of the most valuable private collections in the world and has been catalogued and priced.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER.

THE foundation stone of the Chandbally pilgrim hospital was laid by Mrs. Tute on the 17th instant. The institution will entirely owe its existence to the energies of Mr. Tute, the Collector of Puri. The public have responded well to the appeal for subscriptions. Not only has the money to build the hospital been subscribed, but monthly subscriptions nearly sufficient to carry on its good work have already been guaranteed in landed property and otherwise. The Government has been asked to sanction the application of the Puri Act to the Lodging houses of Chandbally.

THE National Chamber of Commerce have addressed a well-reasoned memorial to the Government about the Income Tax. The Chamber rightly says that as a rule, it would urge, returns made by respectable native firms should be accepted. If they are trusted, they will not fail to reciprocate the trust, and their example will influence the firms of minor importance and position. Further, in case the *khatta* books are called, they should be accepted as a correct record, and should not be rejected on mere suspicion, as they have been, the Chamber regrets to observe, in several cases. Indeed the practice of calling in question the account books has been carried so far, that there have been cases where the books of Joint Stock Companies, which are in all cases certified by a body of Directors, audited by Professional Accountants, and registered in the Office of the Registrar of Assurances have actually been challenged. The Collector, the Chamber begs to submit, has no right to impugn the correctness of *khatta* books which are the authoritative record of income and expenditure, and which a court-of-law would accept as such. The Chamber fears that sufficient care is not always taken to keep secret the information regarding income submitted by different firms. To merchants their credit is every thing, and if it is injured by unauthorized information of this nature, the harm done is really great. The Chamber would, therefore, respectfully suggest that, if the filing of *khatta* books should be insisted upon, these should not be made over for inspection to subordinates below the rank of Deputy Collectors, who from their position, may be expected to pay a conscientious regard to the orders of Government."

THE Chamber has addressed a second memorial on the subject of the circular canals tolls. They complain of the onerous taxation by the heavy tolls collected, and the arbitrary measurement of boats for ascertaining the amount payable as toll. They quote an authorised scale which prevailed up to 1860, showing a rate of 8 annas per 100 maunds. In 1860, the rate was raised to 12 annas, and again in 1873, it was further enhanced to 14 annas which they consider too high. They state that the profits derived from the canals are large, chiefly from the needlessly high tolls charged. From 1881-82, when the profits were Rs. 1,55,213 they have risen in 1885-86 to Rs. 2,92,737. They say that the original cost of the canals has been recouped to the Government, and there is a surplus of about 65 lakhs of rupees, which, properly laid out, would suffice to abolish the tolls altogether, or certainly to admit of the reduction of the present excessive rates. But the chief cause of complaint is as regards the principle of the measurement of boats, which they illustrate by examples. A boat, carrying 1,000 maunds of jute, is made to pay for 2,500 maunds, or Rs. 21-14, instead of Rs. 8-12, paying for the weight of the boat, as well as for that of the cargo. A boat carrying 800 maunds of salt has to pay for 2,000 maunds, being 800 for the salt and 1,200 for the weight of the boat. These statements are

borne out by a list of 65 instances compiled from the books of native firms of Baliaghatta. It is pointed out that bulky, and not valuable cargoes, such as firewood and straw, are charged most excessively under this system, as the incidence often amounts to a tax of from 3 to 5 per cent upon the value of the cargo. The memorialists pray for a more equitable system.

THURSDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER.

THE Bombay Municipal Corporation have raised a question of precedence, and have addressed the Local Government, requesting that an apparent mistake by which the Chairman of the Corporation is not allotted a place in the precedence table—while the Chairman of the Town Council has a place, next to the Sheriff of Bombay—may be rectified.

A SPECIAL telegram from London to the *Pioneer* represents the Stanley Expenditure for the relief of Emin Bey as being in a critical situation :—"A Brussels telegram states that Tippoo Tib, either with a treacherous design or compelled by the opposition of unfriendly Arabs, has failed to reinforce Mr. Stanley. The Arabs, it appears, are armed with rifles and strongly entrenched. Stanley has already had some fighting. The rear-guard of the relief expenditure, under Major Barttelot, is isolated."

THE Bombay Town Council has decided to adopt a short draft Act for the prevention of adulteration of *ghee* in Bombay, and that the Act should be forwarded to the Corporation, recommending them to approve the same and submit it to Government, with a request that it may be passed into law, and eventually embodied in the new Municipal Bill. A decidedly round about way.

IT is reported that the Government of India have recently had under consideration some proposals for lessening the cost of printing, by making over some printing work to private presses.

THE *Morning Post*, of Allahabad, hears that there is every probability of Sir Alfred Lyall entering the India Council immediately he arrives in England. "Sir Henry Maine's health is in a condition that points to his early retirement, and the vacant seat will, we hear, without doubt, be given to our retiring Lieutenant-Governor."

THE following particulars of a mixture vouched for by Mr. J. H. Twigg, C. S, of Hamirpore, N. W. P., as obnoxious to destructive white ants will be read with interest :—"Take about equal parts by weight of *white arsenic* (Hindustani, *sankhiya*) and *carbonate or bicarbonate of soda* (sajji.) Pound the arsenic to a powder, at least as fine as coarse meal. Put the arsenic and soda into an earthen or other pot with water equal in quantity to 15 or 20 times the weight of the arsenic, and heat slowly. Large quantities of carbonic gas will come off, the arsenic combining with the soda and dissolving. In an hour or so, when all has been dissolved, after, perhaps, boiling for a time, the liquid is ready. To exclude white-ants from floors the solution must be greatly diluted. About one part of it to 30 parts of water will suffice, and the whole is to be poured very evenly with a watering pot over the foundation of the floor, which should have been previously saturated with water. The solution must not be mixed with fresh mortar or quicklime, which might render it inert, but is to be poured over the rammed clay brick bats, old lime, or other foundation of the floor. The quantity of arsenic necessary for a floor is not more—probably less—than two ounces of white arsenic to every 100 superficial feet, that is, about nine grains to each foot. If mud walls, or the mud used in laying bricks are to be protected, two ounces to every 100 cubic feet of the mud used might suffice, or the surface of the wall might be wetted with the solution before plastering, but no experiments have been made. A good plan might be to lay with poisoned mud a course of masonry near the foundation, and one or two courses at intervals higher up. In store-rooms and places where arsenic is not objectionable in the outer plaster, a small quantity of very finely ground *yellow arsenic (hartal)*, mixed with the quicklime surface dressing seems to be effectual. It gives a faint sky-blue tint to the plaster." The Hindus use 'hurtal' for sizing paper for Sanskrit M.SS. and a more effectual preservative has not yet been discovered.

THE financial ruling of the Government of India, prohibiting the grant of travelling allowances to officers proceeding to join acting appointments, operates very hardly upon officers of the subordinate and judicial service. As an illustration, a case has recently occurred in which a young native was appointed to act as a Moonsiff for a month to relieve a permanent incumbent. The young officer had to pay Rs. 116 for his actual travelling expenses, so that when he returned to Calcutta, after the expiry of the tenure of his office, he received Rs. 84 only, out of his salary of Rs. 200 a month, after deducting the amount of his travelling expenses.

FRIDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER.

MAHARAJAH DHULEEP SINGH has addressed the following letter to the editor of the *Standard* :—"Sir, Might I request you to contradict the report of your Paris correspondent, which appeared in the *Standard* of the 11th instant? It is quite true that I am a proud rebel against England, but I have no connection whatever with Djemel Addin (whom I know only by name) or his party ; nor do I approve of their present action. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, Dhuleep Singh, Sovereign of the Sikh Nation and Implacable Foe of England. Hotel Billo, Moscow, October 18." It is all right to show up the imposture of Dejemil Addin who ever he may be. But these manifestations of increasing dementation ! It can hardly be doubted now that the proclamations and manifestoes, yea the telegrams to native Indian princes of which we have been hearing so much recently, are clever forgeries of interested emissaries.

AN invention has just been produced by a Frenchman, in the shape of a noiseless clock, for use more especially in sick rooms. In place of the usual pendulum, the hands are set in motion by the unrolling of a chain, the end of which is fastened to a buoy floating in a tank of liquid. This fluid escapes at an uniform rate and can be utilised to feed a lamp-wick, thus giving the apparatus the double character of clock and lamp. When the lamp is lighted, the necessary diminution of liquid takes place by combustion ; at other times, by a carefully regulated dropping.

IT is rumoured that on the returning of Mr. C. H. Tawney, from England, or by the beginning of next year, Sir Alfred Croft is likely to proceed on leave, when Mr. Tawney will act for him. One or other of these luminaries is constantly going on furlough. Even the 'English climate' of Darjeeling is not enough to keep up sickly Educational Service health, it seems.

MR. J. V. S. POPE, Inspector of Schools, Behar Circle, is likely to take furlough early next year, when Mr. Tiery, the Assistant Inspector, will act for him.

A RUMOUR is afloat that the fire in the Secretariat buildings at Allahabad was caused by the explosion of a kerosine lamp. It seems that some one living in one of the tents in the compound had occasion at night to send for some extra chairs to seat his friends, and a peon was sent up with a hand lamp to fetch them. The lamp accidentally broke, and a flame of fire spread over the floor, but it was to all outward appearances stamped out by the peon. The man then came down and closed the doors after him. This happened on Saturday night; and on Sunday morning, the place was discovered to be in flames. An enquiry is being held into the matter with closed doors.

ONE of the sons of the Maharajah Dhulip Singh has entered Magdalene College, Cambridge.

AS the Viceroy cannot make the tour to the frontier as previously decided upon, Sir Theodore Hope, it is expected, will take up the tour of His Excellency, and examine the same points, among them the Sind-Pishin line.

THE Queen of Madagascar has issued a proclamation—rendering all Malagasy women who are living in concubinage with foreigners liable to the loss of their civil rights and the confiscation of the property they hold under Malagasy law. The proclamation also declares that the offspring of such connections will be regarded as Malagasy subjects. The *Madagascar Times* explains that the authors of the new law are also attacking other abuses—notably slavery. It appears that foreigners living with native women are accustomed to give them money to purchase slaves. The men themselves cannot own human beings, but through native women they are able to purchase slaves and employ them in working plantations and building houses.

MR. A. E Gough, Principal of the Muir College, has been chosen by the Senate for the office of Registrar of the new Allahabad University.

THE use of dogs as sentinels and messengers is very old, having come down to us from classical times, but the Germans are the first nation in modern times who have regularly employed dogs with their armies. The Germans have dog-scouts trained to run messages, the communication being placed in a small bag hung round their throats. They also strengthen their guards with one or more watch dogs, who are of the greatest assistance in detecting the approach of footsteps, and who, by their barking, rouse up the sleeping guard in time of danger.

SATURDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER.

IT has very properly been ruled by the Government of India that, in future, no officer belonging to the service of, or in receipt of a pension from, the British Government, who is transferred to service under a Native State, may accept a pension or gratuity from such State except with the sanction of the Government of India.

THE visit of M. Pasteur's Agent to this country will be turned to account, it is said, by allowing as many Veterinary officers as possible to attend the series of experiments which will be undertaken at Cawnpore.

HIS Highness the Nizam has given sanction to the construction of a tramway which will connect Hydrabad with its various suburbs and with Secunderabad. A company has been formed ; and operations will be almost immediately commenced.

THE Queen's favourite dog, "Noble," recently died at Balmoral. The animal had been the constant companion of Her Majesty for about sixteen years, and is constantly mentioned in the Diary.

A LOCALITY has been discovered near Hyderabad, Sind, where it is believed possible to construct a bridge over the Indus, should it be required to connect the Hyderabad line with Karachi.

MR. GIRDLESTONE, British Resident in Nepal, and Mr. Paul, Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, met recently on the Nepal-Sikkim frontier to consult about a proposal to improve the gradient of a road along the ridge which divides British territory from Nepal. The alignment of this road is far from what is desirable, owing to the necessity of its keeping within British border. The question was raised by the Darjeeling Railway Company, who hold that great increase of traffic would follow the suggested improvements.

FOLLOWING the example of Sir Rivers Thompson, Sir Alfred Lyall has had drawn up an official memorandum of his administration, which will be published very shortly. The *Pioneer* "by anticipation" publishes certain complimentary remarks about Revenue Officers.

MR. A. Cotterell Tupp succeeds Mr. Sinkinson as Accountant-General in Bombay.

CAPTAIN J. Colvin, of the Bengal Staff Corps, has been appointed Private Secretary to the new Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces.

THE Irrigation Commission of Sahabad will commence work on the 1st December.

THE European prison at Utakamand is now complete ; and in future, prisoners in the Panjab, whose sentences exceed two years' imprisonment, can be transferred to Utakamand. Europeans, even though prisoners, cannot do without hill sanitaria.

THE INDAIN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.
(210, BOW-BAZAR STREET.)
(SESSION 1887-8.)

LECTURE by Babu Asutosh Mukerjee, M. A., F. R. A. S., F. R. S. E., To-day 28*th Inst.*, at 3½ P. M.
Subject : Analytical Geometry : Confocal Conics and Plane Elliptic Co-ordinates.
LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Tuesday*, the 29*th Inst.* at 7 P. M.
Subject : Electro-Magnetism and Electro-Magnetic Rotations.
PRACTICAL CLASS in Physics under Babu Jagadish Chunder Bose, B. Sc., on *Wednesday*, the 30*th Inst.* at 3-30 P. M.
PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry for LADIES, under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on *Thursday* the 1*st December* at 4. P. M.
Subject : Oxygen.
LECTURE by the Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., C. I. E. on *Thursday*, the 1*st December* at 7 P. M.
Subject : Practical Applications of the Laws of Gases.
LECTURE by Dr. Rajanikanta Sen, on *Friday* the 2*nd December* at 7 P. M.
Subject : Boron and Silicon.
PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on *Saturday* the 3*rd December* at 4 P. M.
Junior Class, *Subject* : Arsenic.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
November 28th, 1887. *Honorary Secretary.*

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1887.

THE VICEROY AT KARACHI.

WE have always admitted that the Viceroy should know the country which he has undertaken to govern, and the best way for His Excellency to accomplish that object is undoubtedly to see things with his own eyes. But the misfortune is that his exalted position does not enable him to see things in their naked reality. He is generally obliged to look through the spectacle of others, and even when he can use his own eyes, he sees only the whitewash. This is a disability which one in the position of the Viceroy cannot easily get over. Nevertheless he does a great deal when he makes use of his own eyes. Gubernatorial tours have another great advantage. They furnish the Viceroy and Provincial rulers with occasions for taking the public into confidence and for expressing their opinions on some of the most important questions of the day. Our rulers have very few opportunities of speaking out their minds. Ours is a paragraph, and not speaking, Government, and our rulers have only an opportunity of making speeches when they go out on tour and receive addresses.

On the occasion of Lord Dufferin's recent visit to Karachi several addresses were presented to his Lordship by the various public bodies and communities. His replies to these addresses were chiefly remarkable for his utterances on the Railway question, which has for some time past absorbed the attention of the Karachi merchants. The falling-off in the trade of their port is a matter which necessarily concerns these gentlemen very much. They have satisfied themselves that in order to develop the trade of Karachi, the Sind Section of the North-Western Railway should be linked with the Rajputana-Malwa system across the Sind desert by way of Omerkote and Pachbadra in Marwar. They urge the construction of a railway running from the Indus near the town of Hyderabad to a junction with the Rajputana-Railway at Pachbadra in the Jodhpore state. The length of the contemplated line would be about 250 miles, of which 100 miles would lie in Jodhpore territory. The Karachi merchants represented to Government that the effect of the proposed connection of the Rajputana-Malwa and the North-Western Railways would be to develop the trade of their port by placing Delhi and the surrounding British districts and all Rajput States to the westward of Agra nearer by 100 miles and thereby to afford the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab much-needed facilities for reaching the coast. It was assumed that the Jodhpore Durbar would be quite willing to make the hundred miles of railway within its territory; and the Karachi Chamber of Commerce assured the Government that the traffic on the section of the line from Hyderabad to the frontier of Jodhpore, 140 miles long, would yield an adequate return on the capital invested in it. The Government of India did not fall in with the views of the Karachi merchants. It pointed out that the statement of the Chamber that the saving in the distance from Marwar Junction on the Rajputana Railway to Karachi by the new route would be 100 miles, was incorrect; that the distance saved would be only 68 miles; that the Jodhpore Durbar would not be willing to construct the hundred miles which lie within its territory; and that the proposed line would not prove remunerative. The merchants of Karachi were not, of course, satisfied with the reply received from the Government of India to their memorial. They held a public meeting and protested against it; and when the Viceroy visited their port, it was only natural that they should re-open the question and urge it again upon His Excellency's consideration. Lord Dufferin, we are glad to find, did not hold out any hopes to the Karachi merchants that their prayer would be granted. His Lordship explained that the Government of India is in a difficult and embarrassing position, and he went on to say—"We are strictly enjoined by theSecretary of State—and recently his instructions have become more imperative—not to expend, either directly or through the medium of a guarantee, more than a certain sum annually on the construction of railways. On the other hand, the Government of India is irretrievably committed to a great number of lines still incomplete, which consume almost the whole capital we are allowed to borrow for such purposes, and which, unless finished, will entail considerable loss. We have also to consider the obligations to Upper Burma, where railways are an absolute military necessity, and are also required to enable the Province to assume that position of financial equilibrium which can only be brought about by the development of its natural resources. While standing in Karachi, other obligations present to the mind of Government are apt to disappear, and the claims of your town to assume almost undue importance. But when the Viceroy goes to Calcutta and again finds himself surrounded by his advisers, then perhaps, against his amiable inclinations, he may be obliged to give greater weight to other considerations which tell against your wishes." The Karachi Chamber of Commerce, in their memorial submitted to Government, stated that the proposed Railway line from Hyderabad to Pachbadra "offers the almost certain prospect of being remunerative." When such is the case, why do not the European merchants of Karachi, we would ask, come forward and undertake the construction of the line at their own cost and on their own responsibility, without a Government guarantee? We are told that the London Chamber of Commerce have supported the views of the Karachi Chamber in this matter. Well, these two Chambers ought to be able to secure the small amount of capital required for constructing the proposed Hyderabad-Pachbadra Railway. It is all very well to paint a railway project in rosy colours and then ask the Government of India to adopt it at the expense of the voiceless and helpless Indian tax-payers. Common fairness demands that the projectors should carry out their scheme on their own rosponsibility when they are satisfied that it "offers the almost certain prospect of being remunerative."

Lord Dufferin had also occasion at Karachi to make some observations on the Mahomedan question. In replying to the address presented to him by the Central Mahomedan Association, his Lordship remarked: "They are perfectly right in thinking that the fact of my having passed many years in contact with Mahomedan communities, and in official relations with a Mahomedan Government, has naturally imbued me with the deepest and most genuine sympathy with the Mahomedan subjects of Her Majesty in India; but it must always be remembered that one of the most important and righteous functions of the Indian Government is to administer the affairs of State with the most absolute impartiality. What we desire to bring about is a condition of absolute impartiality between race and race, religion and religion, and community and community. But though firmly determined to maintain inviolate those principles, I am not precluded from expressing deep sympathy with the undoubted fact that, owing to various circumstances which are in a great measure historical in origin, the Mahomedan community in many parts of India hardly finds itself in that absolutely satisfactory position to which it has the right to aspire; but I can find Mahomedans themselves who are the most ready to acknowledge that the principal reason for this state of things is backwardness in education." The perfect justice of these remarks cannot for a moment be questioned. With the all important public service question pending before them for solution, it is a matter of joy to learn that the Government of Lord Dufferin are determined to bring out a condition of absolute impartiality between race and race, religion and religion, and community and community. This assurance will be most satisfactory to our countrymen who, in the matter of their employment in the public service, ask for nothing but fair play. We trust our Mahomedan fellow subjects will fully realize the fact that their backwardness in education is the principal reason for their remaining behind in the race of progress. We are glad to find that the Mussulmans of Sind, which is the most backward province in India, are showing an earnest zeal in the education of their youths. During his stay in Karachi the Viceroy laid the foundation stones of the Sind Arts College and the Mahomedan Madrassa. Before laying the foundation stone of the latter building, His Excellency said:—"One of the first circumstances brought to my knowledge on landing in Bombay was that owing to circumstances over which they had no control, the Mahomedan population throughout India, was somewhat backward in the race of life as compared with their competitors of other creeds and communities. And the more I went into the subject the more deeply I became convinced that however willing Government might be to offer the Mahomedan community, the same advantages as other inhabitants of India, the real remedy for this state of things lay rather in their own hands." Again, in his speech introductory to the College ceremony, Lord Dufferin said: "In these days the struggle for existence is becoming so severe among all classes that the wisest thing for those concerned in the future rising generation is to spare no pains to enable those in whom they are interested to acquire that education which can alone fit them for positions of independence." We hope our Mahomedan fellow subjects will ponder over Lord Dufferin's weighty words coming, as they do, from an experienced statesman, who deeply sympathises with them for their remaining behind in the race of progress. It is high time that they realised the fact that the real remedy for their present condition which is the result of their backwardness in education is in their own hands.

MR. RISLEY ON BENGALI MARRIAGE.

THE October No. of the *Asiatic Quarterly Review* contains an interesting article on the origin and character of 'Widow and Infant Marriage in Bengal.' Unlike a previous article on the subject in that periodical which abounded in sensationalism of the type of Malabari, Raghunath Rao & Co., it is throughout calm, considerate and thoughtful. It aims not at bold metaphors and startling sentences. It is not designed for the gallery, nor written for effect. It can win no rabid following of reformers. Coming from the pen of a responsible Secretary to the Government whose opinion it must, to a considerable extent, reflect, it is judicial in tone, and statesman-like in temper. As its author has made the ethnology of Bengal the subject of his study for some time, it has, moreover, the advantage of his varied and extensive experience. There are in it some misstatements and mistakes, which it was impossible for a foreigner to avoid; but on the whole we can well commend it to the careful consideration of our readers.

The author starts with an enquiry as to the origin of sutteeism. He does not accept the theory of Max Muller who supposes that widow-burning was got up by wicked Brahmans in recent times, and that by a falsification of a verse in the Rig Veda. The theory is absurd on the face of it, and none but our "reformers" and dealers in second-hand wares could take it as it stands. Mr. Risley very correctly attributes it to the primitive belief that the dead chief or head of the family needed in the world of spirits the companionship and service of his mundane surroundings, and therefore they were sacrificed *i. e.* buried or burnt on his fire along with his bows, arrows, sacrificial vessels, and even cattle, the last not often. This was the custom all over the primitive world, and it may safely be inferred that it prevailed among the Indo-Aryans in pre-Vedic days. This was, however, too gross for the more civilized condition of Vedic times, and the funeral hymn in the Rig Veda shows that it was reduced to a symbolical sacrifice, in which the widow was made to lie on the pyre beside her dead husband, but was removed therefrom before the fire was set to it. Mr. Risley imagines that the sacrifice was revived in later times, and Sir Henry Maine suggests that it was done with a view to get rid of the inconvenient lien which the widow held over her husband's property. This is, however, not tenable. The widow had no lien on the property in the presence of children, and in the absence of children there would be no

object in getting rid of the widow. The most probable solution of the question appears to us to lie in the fact that the old custom was never altogether suppressed. The hymn in the Rig Veda refers to Brahmans and Kshatriyas only, and it is too much to suppose that it applied to all castes and communities. It may therefore be reasonably assumed that the primitive barbarous custom did linger in the country and latterly had a wider range as to caste than in the time of the Veda in question. We say "wider range as to caste," because the custom never had a *wide* range generally at any time. The statistics collected at the close of the last century and in the first two decades of this century did not come up to one in a thousand deaths.

The difficulties connected with widow marriage have been on the whole fully summarised. One of them is a superfluity of marriageable women, and in noticing it Mr. Risley adverts to "hypergamy" or "the rule which compels a man to wed his daughter with a member of a group which shall be equal or superior in rank to his own." The definition here is faulty, for the term hypergamy cannot logically be correct where the ranks are equal, but it becomes worse when Mr. Risley takes "rank" to be synonymous with caste, and refers to "rules which admit the marriage of a man of a higher caste to a woman of a lower caste, but condemn the converse practice in the strongest terms." Ancient practice apart, modern Hinduism does not anywhere tolerate the mixing of castes by marriage. It is the essence of the caste system that each caste should remain separate, and never admit of miscegenation in marriage under any circumstance. So strong is the feeling in this respect, that even a Pod or a Teor would run the risk of being outcasted if he married in due religious form the daughter of a Brahman. As far as Bengal is concerned such a thing never occurs, and certain it is that such a custom has no connexion with the superfluity of spinsters in any part of India. Rank such as is taken note of in Kulin marriages is quite distinct from caste, and the circumstance should not have been confounded by the official adviser of Government in matters of anthropology.

The account given of sagai marriage which prevails so largely among the lower castes in every part of Bengal and Northern India is generally correct, and Mr. Risley rightly takes *sagai* to denote "cohabitation (*sanga*), and to have reference to the fact that a widow marriage is established by the parties living together, and is accompanied by a very meagre ceremony, or none at all." In saying this he, of course, accepts *Sagai* to be a derivative or corruption of *Sanga*, as we described it to be in a recent issue of this paper, (October 31st). Those who told Mr. Risley that *sagai* was "a corruption of *sa-gotra* or *svagotra*—the idea being that as a woman passes by marriage into her husband's gotra or exogamous group, if she marries again *within that gotra* (as she usually does) she constitutes an exception to the ordinary rule of exogamy,"—simply misled him. Among all those castes in which *sagai* marriage obtains, the distinction of *gotra* is little or not at all respected. Most of those castes profess to belong to the *Maudgalya gotra*, and consequently their first marriage among them is a *svagotra* one, for both the bridegroom and the bride belong to the same *gotra*, and there would be no distinction between the first and the second or widow marriage. Mr. Risley has also been misinformed as to the true character of the ceremony observed in the case of a bachelor marrying a widow. He is quite right when he says, "Astrologers are called to fix a lucky day; a bridal canopy (*marwa*) is erected in the bridegroom's house, and his ancestors are solemnly propitiated by Brahmans." But those preliminaries do not refer to the marriage with a widow. A widow marriage is not recognised as a marriage at all, and as it is necessary for every one to get through the sacrament (*sanskara*) of marriage this is regularly solemnized in the bridegroom's house previous to his taking a widow to wife. The bride is represented in the preliminary ceremony by a plantain tree or a pitcher of water. This symbolical marriage is also observed when a man takes a third wife, after the death of the first two. A third wife is believed to be very inauspicious, so the third marriage is represented by a symbolical rite with a plantain tree, and the actual third wife comes in as the fourth.

With reference to the prospect of the widow marriage movement in the immediate future, Mr. Risley is not very hopeful. He says: "every new railway, besides giving new customers to Manchester, gives new clients to the Brahman. If things go on as they are going now, in fifty years time the number of castes which forbid widows to remarry will have enormously increased, and a question which now calls only for the expression of compassionate sympathy will have attained the dimensions of a serious social evil. What shall we do to be saved from the troubles to come? Legislation will help us little, at least in any of the forms which are now before the public. In the first place, the great body of the people are too poor to be much affected by the abrogation of the forfeiture clauses of the Hindu Marriage Act, and secondly, those clauses are, as has been shown above, entirely in accord with the custom of the widow marrying castes in Behar. The law, therefore, amended as advanced reformers now propose, would either discourage widow marriage by attaching to it a condition inconsistent with existing usage, or miss its inducement by reason of the poverty of the parties. In either case it will be wholly inoperative." Professor Mahesh Chandra Nyayaratna, of the Calcutta Sanskrit College, is very hopeful in this respect. He has assured Mr. Risley that "the recognition of widow marriage is merely a question of time. Once let the upper castes be fully converted to the new practice and the lower castes will follow their lead as blindly in one direction as they follow it in another." But Mr. Risley seems not to be quite satisfied with this. He says: "I wish to add that the reforming members of the higher castes are deeply interested in securing the adhesion of the lower castes. Should they fail to do this, they will find themselves left alone between two legions of the orthodox, and they will be led to sink into the rather undignified and matrimonially inconvenient position of a mere sub-caste whose distinctive mark is the adoption, under the influence of Western ideas, of a practice reprobated by the rest of the population. This would be a sorry ending to the promise of a great social reform." Elsewhere he observes: "we have at one end of Hindu Society a small handful of reformers, brought up on a foreign system of education, proposing to Government to legislate for the purpose of carrying out domestic reforms of a most searching character, while at the other end thousands of people are every year abandoning the very practice which the reformers wish to introduce. For one convert that these may make, at the cost of much social obloquy, among the higher educated classes, Hinduism sweeps whole tribes into its net." We are, however, neither elated by the assurance of the Pandit nor depressed by the apprehensions of Mr. Risley. The "great social reform" in question concerns *sagai* marriage, a system which, in the language of Mr. Risley, "permits a man to marry a widow with little more circumstance than would be appropriate if he were merely taking up a fresh mistress." For such a purpose, we think, the cravings of nature will amply suffice till the millennium has arrived.

THE ARMIES OF THE NATIVE STATES.

A correspondent of the *Times* has, in a recent issue of the leading journal, discussed the important subject which heads this article. The writer begins by saying that whatever effect the Nizam's magnificent offer of sixty lakhs of rupees towards the cost of strengthening the defences of the Empire may have, it will compel the Government of India, to take the question of the armies of the Native States. In noticing the Nizam's offer in a recent issue, we briefly referred to that question. There can be no doubt that a satisfactory solution of the problem is surrounded with great difficulties. But whatever the difficulties may be, they must be boldly faced and overcome. The writer in the *Times* tells us that in the schemes which have been drafted and laid down for the movement of troops on any sudden emergency arising on the frontier, no definite place has been assigned to the armies of the Native States. This omission cannot be too deeply regretted. The problem how to employ to the best advantage in the event of a great war the large armed forces which are maintained by the feudatory chiefs should receive careful and attentive consideration of the Commander-in-Chief and the Government of India, without delay. The writer in the *Times* rightly holds that the Government would not be justified in demanding the disbandment of the armies of the Natives States. He says:—"In the first place, it is out of the question and as well as unjust to now talk of any interference with the rulers and chiefs of India, in maintaining armies the existence and size of which are sanctioned by treaty. What is done must be done with their assent and co-operation, and those States that prefer to have no share in the defence of India must be left in their own selfish isolation. These, if any, will be few, and once the Native Princes see that we do not wish to curtail their dignity, privileges and authority, their attitude will be in accordance with the example loyally and spontaneously set by them by the Nizam of Hyderabad. In the second place, if we are to convince the princes of India that our new proposals are not directed towards weakening them, we must give them a definite place in the honor and advantage that must accrue from the security of India, whether it be established in open war or by the fact that no invasion is attempted. If it requires a great military organiser to prepare the scheme, it is quite clear that the art of diplomacy will have to be largely employed to make it acceptable to the chiefs and their courts; but in perfect frankness, as we have no sinister designs—which, indeed, should be obvious to the most suspicious prince, as we are proposing something that will make his little army more efficient and formidable—lies the best chance of inducing them to embark heartily and without misgiving upon a project for ensuring the object, common to all, as the Nizam rightly says, of the external security of the country." So far there can be no room for any difference of opinion. The first and the most important thing is certainly to win the confidence of the Native princes. The existing relations between the feudatory chiefs and the representatives of Paramount Power accredited to their courts are, speaking generally, unsatisfactory in the extreme. The Political Agent is, as a rule, by lack of training, quite ignorant of the requirements of the important and delicate position in which he is placed. As things now stand, the Foreign Office seems to think that a Native State exists solely for the support of the Political Agent and his assistants. It is notorious that irritation is frequently caused in the mind of the Native Prince by the acts of the representative of the Paramount Power accredited to his court, and he is often, sometimes roughly, reminded that he rules only on sufferance, and the Political Agent is there to keep a jealous watch on all his actions. The Agent's petty and irritating interference exercised in the name of the British Government causes constant heart-burnings. Now, it is needless to say that so long as this lamentable state of things continues, it would be difficult to secure the perfect confidence of the Native Princes. The existing relations between the British Government and the feudatory chiefs must be improved before the problem how to utilise their armed forces in the event of a great war can be satisfactorily solved.

The Native States of India maintain the enormous force of nearly 3,50,000 fighting men and 4,237 guns. These men are, for the most part little better than half-armed useless rabble, and the guns are not of the slightest use. The writer in the *Times* points out that the only armies that need be considered in discussing this question are the Nizam's armies, the Rajputana forces, the Central India armies, the forces of the Sikh States and of Kashmir. The Government has practically to consider about 220,000 men, and even of these the irregulars of Hyderabad and the levies of Rajputana should be left out of account, as they

are rather personal retainers than soldiers. Deducting these, we have about 150,000 men, which could be utilized for the defence of the Empire. We quite agree with the correspondent of the *Times* that the armies of the Native States cannot, in their present state, be safely employed in active operations at the front. The real question is, how can these armies be improved and made a source of strength to the Empire? The correspondent says:—"Admitting the present military shortcomings of these bodies of men, it follows that the first step taken should be an offer from the Government of India to send each State a small number of English Officers to train and discipline its army. To render this palatable and acceptable, it would be preceded by a notification that the Viceroy is prepared on receiving the assent of a sufficient number of States, to issue a declaration constituting the armies of the Native Princes the First Indian Reserve. The acceptance of the services of English Officers, who should be exclusively employed in military duties, should not be made binding on the Native State for a longer period than three years, and it should then have the right of reducing the number employed, or of dispensing with their services altogether. The main duty of these officers would be to instruct the native troops in modern drill and in the use of a rifle, which should be a uniform weapon for all native troops whether in our service or in that of the native Princes. Care should be taken to impress upon the native Governments that there is no plan of forcing the services of Englishmen upon them, and one of our main objects would be the elevation of the native officers, who very frequently are members of gentle or noble families, and only require example and encouragement to become proficient in all the duties required of them. If the Duke of Connaught's admirable idea of creating an Indian Sandhurst for the training of officers for our own native army bears fruit, it may be hoped, that some of the chief independent States will follow the example and establish a similar institution in their own territory." This scheme has many excellent points to recommend it for favourable consideration. What a pillar of strength to the Empire would be the addition of 150,000 disciplined soldiers to our army with no extra cost to the Indian Exchequer! The Native Princes will be only too glad to participate in the defence of the empire by improving their armies. We have in a previous issue expressed our strong opinion that instead of receiving eleemosynary gifts from the Native Princes as contributions towards strengthening the frontier of India, the Viceroy and his councillors should mature a scheme for utilizing their armies for the defence of the Empire. That would surely be an act of genuine statesmanship.

RAILWAY COMMUNICATION WITH SIMLA.

WE cordially congratulate Lord Dufferin and his advisers upon their sound decision on the question of connecting Simla with the plains by a line of railway. That question had for several years been under the consideration of the Government of India, and considerable pressure had been brought to bear upon it by those who are interested in the project in order to procure a favourable decision. But it is a matter of joy to the tax-payer that their endeavours have proved unsuccessful. After going into the matter carefully and thoroughly, the Supreme Government, as we said in our last, has come to the conclusion that it is not prepared under present circumstances to undertake the construction of the Umballa-Kalka or the Kalka-Simla line either as a State Railway, or to offer any guarantee or subsidy on their concession to private enterprise.

Having regard to the interests of the tax-payer and the justice of the case, the Government of India could not possibly have arrived at any other decision on the question of establishing railway communication with its summer capital. The public is now in possession of the estimated cost of connecting Simla and Umballa by railway, and of certain calculations showing what direct returns the two lines required for the purpose are likely to yield. The revised estimate for the 38 miles between Umballa and Kalka, including indirect charges but excluding rolling-stock, amounts to about 32 lakhs. But the Kalka-Simla project would be a much more costly affair. Mr. Morris to whom the preparation of an estimate for this line was entrusted in 1884, has completed his work. From his calculation it appears that a mountain railway on the 2 feet gauge, 68 miles in length, would cost 62 lakhs, including 5 lakhs for rolling stock. Mr. Molesworth, Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for State Railways, to whom Mr. Morris's estimate was submitted for examination, recorded his opinion that with the use of steel instead of deodar sleepers, the cost would be one lakh per mile for direct charges alone, to which 5 lakhs must be added for indirect charges. The Government of India, however, has reduced the indirect charges from 5 to 3 lakhs. The revised estimate stands at 71 lakhs for the Kalka-Simla project. The two lines required for connecting Umballa and Simla by railway would thus cost a little above a crore of rupees. The question is, what would be the probable return on outlay? As regards the Umballa-Kalka line, it was calculated on the basis of a very incomplete and in some respects obsolete registration of traffic, that it would yield 4·39 per cent on the capital invested in it. But the Punjab Government did not accept this sanguine estimate. It held that the Umballa-Kalka line did not offer the prospect of a more than 2 per cent return. As to probable returns on the Kalka-Simla project, Mr. Morris anticipated more than 4 per cent on outlay. But the Under-Secretary to the Punjab Government in the Public Works Department, who examined Mr. Morris's calculations carefully in a note recorded by him on the subject writes:—"In regard to the probable gross earnings, I think Mr. Morris assumes somewhat too favourable rates. To do a successful business in the lowest class goods and passengers, which in all cases form the bulk of the traffic to which a railway has mainly to look, it will be necessary to offer both great inducements to take the rail rather than the road. For his lowest goods rates Mr. Morris takes 1·8 pies per maund mile, or about 10¼ annas per maund from Kalka to Simla, equal to 48·6 pies per ton mile. Taking the cheapest form of carriage which I believe at times prevails, probably about 6 annas per maund for the whole distance, or 1·08 per maund mile or 29·16 per ton mile. But say even 36 pies or 3 annas per ton mile Then for the lowest class passenger he assumes Rs. 2-8 from Kalka to Simla. An ekka in the season will generally take a man up for Rs. 2 to 2-8, at times for less. It will certainly within my knowledge, often bring him down for less." The Punjab Government accepted the views of its Under-Secretary in the Public Works Department and remarked:—"The financial aspect of the present project [the mountain Railway from Kalka to Simla] has been dealt with in the accompanying note by the Under-Secretary in this Department, in which conclusions the Officiating Chief Engineer generally concurs. While ackowledging the care with which Mr. Morris has prepared the project, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor thinks the anticipated returns as set forth in that gentleman's report are somewhat too sanguine. The conditions of the Kalka-Simla line would differ materially from those of the Darjeeling Railway, on which Mr. Morris relies mainly for his comparison, and it appears to Mr. Lyall exceedingly problematic if the former could be expected to pay 4 per cent. at any rate for many years to come. Some allowance must undoubtedly be made for the development of traffic which, although not likely to be so rapid or so extensive as in districts possessing agricultural or mineral resources, might, however, to a certain extent, be looked for. * * * *. It will be gathered from the foregoing remarks, that if this line had nothing to recommend it beyond the prospect of success as a commercial enterprise, the Lieutenant-Governor would scarcely feel justified in advocating its construction." Nothing could be stronger than this expression of the Punjab Government's opinion on the financial aspect of the Kalka-Simla line. With such a report before it the Government of India would surely have thrown itself open to a charge of gross extravagance if it had adopted the project of connecting Umballa and Simla by railway as a productive public work.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

THE Viceroy arrived at Peshawar, on the 24th instant, and was received by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Commander-in-Chief, and a numerous company of Military and Civil Officers, both European and native. At night His Excellency was entertained at a ball at the Club. *En route* to Peshawar the Viceroy and party visited the salt mines at Khewra, which were illuminated for the occasion, forming an effective spectacle. His Excellency also halted at Chillianwalla, and viewed the monument erected there in commemoration of the great battle fought in that place.

THE Viceregal Durbar at Peshwar, held on Thursday last, was a most successful one. It was attended besides the usual durbaries and civil and military officers by so many as 320 representatives of trans-frontier tribes. *Khilluts*, such as swords, pistols, musical boxes, etcetera, aggregating in value about twenty thousand rupees, were presented. These presentations over, the Viceroy addressed the company in a short speech in Persian. So His Excellency's Oriental studies and his Lahore degree of Doctor of Orienta Literature have not wholly gone for nothing The speech was translated into Pushtu for the benefit of tribesmen who did not understand Persian. There was in the afternoon the inevitable Municipal address of course. His Excellency reaches Lahore on the 3rd December.

THE first meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council will be held at the Council Chamber, Dalhousie Square, on Saturday, the 3rd of December, at 11 A. M.

A BOMBAY contemporary learns by wire from England that the Nizam's offer for the frontier defences has been partly accepted. But to what use the money will be put has not yet been decided. If the report proves true we can be only sorry for the British Government, for our native Princes and, above all, their poor and hard-taxed subjects, who will have ultimately to pay for the loyal liberality of their rulers. The acceptance of the offer will also have the effect of making it indirectly obligatory on all our feudatories to imitate the example, whether they can well afford it or not. The Government, or its foreign office representatives, may not have anything to do with these "spontaneous" offers. But their very encouragement will place those that do not follow suit in any thing but an enviable light. Our princes are not strong enough to be able to afford this insane reflection on their loyalty, and must make similar offers in their turn, unless they care to find themselves classed with the Raja of Faridkote. It is absurd to pretend that they do not feel it that way. Kapurthalla and Nabha have already made their offers, and now it is the turn of the Patiala regency and of Jhind to imitate. The political effect of this system of benevolences is not likely to prove wholesome, and we should have been pleased if that sensible view of the question could have been taken by Government.

WE are pleased to note that the Bengal Theatre is steadily maintaining its ground as caterers of innocent and high class public amusement. The stage, the scenes, the auditorium have recently been thoroughly renovated, and the property-man's department has undergone considerable improvement. *Pralhad Charitra*, than which no Bengali drama had a larger run, is maintaining its popularity, and nightly draws crowded houses. But the former triumph of the Company is about to be eclipsed by the production of a most pathetic and exquisite

piece called *Prabhas Milan*, which has been put on the board in an excellent style. The cast is strong, and all the artistes engaged come out to great advantage. The parts of *Narad, Krishna, Radhika, Jasoda, Brinda*, and *Nanda* are particularly well-sustained, and the acting is good throughout. Songs on the popular *Kirtan* line are literally strewn all over the play and touch the tenderest cords of the human heart. Some of the new scenes are well painted, and the gate scenes of Prabhas deserve special mention. A large, distinguished and appreciative assembly including Sir Maharaja Jotendro Mohun Tagore K. C. S. I., witnessed the performance on Sunday before last, and all were pleased with what they witnessed. The Company has deservedly earned public patr onage.

SOME modifications have been made in the subjects for the Statutory Civil Service Examination. On the first day an essay in English, on a subject to be prescribed hereafter, will be written by the candidates; on the second day a general paper on literary, historical, and philosophical questions will be set; on the third day a choice will be offered between (*a*) a general paper on mathematics and physical science, and (*b*) a paper on Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, or Latin; and the subject of the fourth day's examination will be Law, and candidates may select either (*a,*) the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and Mr. Field's Introduction to the Bengal Regulations; or (*b*) Macnaghten's Principles of Hindu and Mahommedan Law, the Civil Procedure Code, the Transfer of Property Act, Act IX of 1872, Act I of 1877, Act III of 1877, Act X of 1865, Act XXI of 1870, Act V of 1881, and Act XXVII of 1860. The principal modification is the option given between science and classical languages, and it is one which is deserving of every praise. The native public should be grateful to Sir Steuart Bayley for this judicial concession.

THE eighth anniversary of the *Savitri Library* was held under the Presidency of Dr. Gurudas Banerji on Sunday before last. A large and influential gathering assembled to listen to Babu Chandranauth Bose's elaborate paper on the early marriage question, in which the orthodox aspect of it was ably supported. Some discussion followed which did not much strengthen the "progressive" position. One thing to be said in favour of the meeting was that it did not share the stormy character of some of its predecessors.

WE are glad to be assured by the Secretary to the Madras Congress Committee that the *Indian Mirror's* alarming paragraph about cholera in Madras is wholly unfounded. The statement that the people emigrate to other parts is incorrect. Owing to continuous rain for several days, there has been some fever; stray cases of cholera among the poor have also occurred. Comfortable bungalows in the healthiest suburbs for the accommodation of the Congress delegates have been secured. There is no ground at all for anxiety about the state of public health. There is no longer any reason therefore why there should not be a large gathering at Madras from all parts of the country.

IT IS reassuring to learn from San Remo that the Crown Prince of Germany continues in wonderful health and spirits. His breathing and swallowing are not impeded.

DECOYING innocent and genteel people for cooly-work in Assam is becoming painfully frequent. Not long ago the *Sanjibani* gave publication to a case in which some Ranigunge recruiters had taken away four men from their homes on false pretences and were attempting to transport them to Assam unregistered, when they were detected and baffled. A criminal case against them is still pending at Burdwan, without much hope of a successful issue, since the aggrieved themselves for fear of greater *zoolum* are unwilling to carry the case through and have made themselves scarce. The *Mirror* hears of two similar cases in which two widowed ladies of genteel birth met with a worse fate and were taken to Dhubri. Their cases are being investigated at Debrugur, and it is hoped that the miscreants will be punished. It is not enough to hunt up isolated cases like these. With facts like these before it, the Government can hardly plead that it is not yet time for it to move in the matter. The law requires modifications that will make the recurrence of these cases impossible, or it will be idle to pretend that the British Government does not harbour and encourage slavery. Our public bodies and the Press should devote greater attention to the question, and it would be well if the National Congress could be made to consider the question. We urged its importance on the Congress held last year, but were told that the question being "purely local" could not be taken up by a national assembly. A more fallacious and absurd position it would be impossible to imagine. Principles of gigantic importance are involved in the consideration of the question, and it is idle to call it local, because forsooth the people of particular localities alone are the victims of the system. To our mind few questions of practical Indian politics are of a greater imperial interest.

WE are once more in the midst of the "Resolution season" and the fact is made known in the last number of the *Calcutta Gazette*. The public are treated to eight distinct resolutions and one report in one issue, the character of all of which is necessarily pretty much the same. We have resolutions on the Administration report of the Port of Chittagong, of the Stamp Department, of the Chota Nagpore Division, of the Presidency Division, of the Patna Division, of the Calcutta Port and upon the training of native Female practitioners of medicine at the Campbell Medical School, besides Salt and Shipping reports. As an article on each of these subjects hardly suffices to do it justice, we shall not attempt any elaborate consideration of them. It must however be noticed that effect has been largely given to the recommendation of the Government of India to shorten these documents as much as possible. They are comparatively brief and therefore the more readable.

WHAT strikes the reader most in reading these resolutions on the Divisional Administrative reports, is the absence of the ill-natured remarks on the Native Press and the educated native community in general, which had come to be quite a feature of the last regime. Under the head of public feeling in the Presidency Division we read :—

"In the Presidency Division public feeling may be expected to be more developed than elsewhere in the Lower Provinces, and the Commissioner's remarks show that this is the case. The formation of Boards under the Local Self-Government Act, the deliberations of the Public Service Commission, the Parliamentary cadidature of natives of India, and the meeting of delegates in Calcutta at what was termed the National Congress, all appear to have evoked a certain amount of interest and expectation among the educated classes. Public feeling was also excited in connection with the widespread rumour of the adulteration of ghee, but this excitement ceased with the passing of Act III (B C.) of 1886. The income-tax, which the Commissioner considers to be unsuited to the circumstances of the country, has continued to cause much dissatisfaction, and is said to have reflected unpopularity on the Burmese campaign, to which the necessity for its imposition was, it appears, generally attributed. The most important manifestation of public feeling during the year was the outburst of genuine loyalty and attachment to the Sovereign which throughout all parts of the division accompanied the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee.

Much the same remarks are made about the Patna and Chota Nagpore divisions. It is no wonder that Sir Steuart Bayley reciprocates the friendly feeling of the native Press and the educated community in general.

IT is satisfactory to learn that the relations between Germany and Russia have greatly improved owing to the interview that took place between the Czar and Prince Bismarck. It has transpired that at that interview Prince Bismarck satisfactorily proved to the Czar that he had been misled as to the German aims and intentions by certain forged documents originating with the Orleanists, which aimed at estranging Russia and Germany, and thus provoking a European war which would forward the schemes of the French Monarchists. A section of the German Court also had been engaged in carrying on a similar plot.

MUNICIPAL elections will be held all over Bengal some time next month. For reasons not very obvious the elections will be held at different places on different dates, which will make it impossible to declare the day of election as a general holiday, as was very considerately done on the last occasion. This will, we are afraid, tell hardly on the elections, as most of the electors who hold any Government employment must be absent from the hustings. As the object can never be to keep them out, it would be desirable to give the electors a holiday. The day on which elections will be held at any place should be declared a holiday for that place.

THE reconstitution of our Legislative Councils including the Imperial is one of the most burning questions of the day. It will take long to induce Government to make the desired concession. In the meanwhile however there is a question within the scope of practical politics to which the Bengal Chamber of Commerce draws the attention of Government, about which there is the greatest possible unanimity of public opinion both European and native, and regarding which the Government may fairly be expected to do some thing. Under the Indian Councils Act, the annual Budgets are not to be presented to the Legislative Council unless some legislative measure is necessary in connection with it, and as a rule the Budgets are published in the form of a resolution or statement. This precludes all possibility of public discussion of the budget until it has finally received official sanction when such discussion becomes worse than useless. The Committee have, therefore, the fullest public sympathy and support in urging upon the Government the desirability of making a change in the law which will permit the discussion of the Annual Budget in the Viceroy's Council.

THERE is now-a-days a demand for the medical education of females, which is not sufficiently met by the facilities offered for their instruction in the Medical College through the medium of the English language. In order, therefore, to facilitate the acquisition of a knowledge of medicine so that they may practise in the larger villages of the mofussil under the same conditions and among the same class of the people as the Hospital Assistants trained in the vernacular medical schools of Calcutta, Dacca, Patna and Cuttack, the Director of Public Instruction proposed, to establish in the Campbell Medical School a vernacular class for female students. There was some opposition to the measure on the part of certain European Medical Officials who were consulted on the subject. Sir Steuart Bayley has, however, resolved to try the measure by way of experiment and the opening of the classes has been temporarily sanctioned. The expenditure involved in the proposal will amount to Rs. 840 per annum in the first year on account of scholarships, Rs. 108 per annum on account of special prizes, and to this has to be added the cost of an omnibus, horses and harness, and stable expenses. In view of the backward state of female education, it is proposed that the qualifying standard of admission for female students should be reduced so as to make women eligible for admission who have passed (*a*) the upper primary scholarship examination, or (*b*) an examination to be held, at the beginning of each session by the teachers of the school, under the presidency of the Superintendent, in the following subjects :—

(1) Reading and explaining a Bengali book of the standard of difficulty of Raj Krishna Mookerjea's History of Bengal.

(2) Writing from dictation from an easy Bengali-book.

(3) Arithmetic to easy fractions and simple rule-of-three.

The age of female students to be not less than 16. Ten scholarships will be created for female

students in each of the three years for which the course extends. The scholarships will be of the value of Rs. 7 a month each (those for boys are Rs. 5), and will carry free tuition. The ordinary entrance fee of Rs. 10 and tuition fee will not be charged to female students. The course of Instruction will extend over three years and will be the same for female as for male students in every respect. The front row of benches will be reserved for the female students, and separate lectures given if necessary, and a portion of the dissecting-room will be screened off for their special use. The Hospital attendance will be the same for them as required for male students, except that the former will be relieved from duty at night. Any female students coming from the mofussil who may so desire will be lodged in the Surnamayi Hostel, and an omnibus will be provided to bring them to and from school.

BABU Sailajanandan Ojha, High Priest of Baidyanath, has just addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General an open letter on the subject of the age of marriage for Hindu females. The good priest is very much exercised by the discussion now being carried on by our "reformers." He is in great anxiety about the action that Government is likely to take in the matter. Like other orthodox Hindus he is strongly in favor of non-interference with the recognised law and customs of the land. What that law is he shows by a series of quotations from the Smritis, and prays that it be not disturbed. As an orthodox Hindu priest he openly declares his faith and will tolerate no discussion as to the merits of the work which he holds to be sacred and revealed by the Godhead. This is an invulnerable position. It can be assailed only when the Government declares that it will not any longer respect the pledge it has given to abide by the Hindu law in all matters connected with the domestic, social and religious affairs of the people. Reformers wish that this neutral policy should be abandoned by our rulers, and active intervention, direct or indirect, should be resorted to, but it is not likely that for a long time to come our Government will be swayed by them. It cannot sacrifice honesty, good faith, peace, and good government for the sake of a small insignificant band of hysterical fadists and popularity-mongers. We are glad that the High Priest has spoken out in the present juncture. It is meet that those who are the representatives of our religion should, on all fitting occasions, come forward in its defence. Adverting to the proposition of having a Representative Board for the settlement of social questions, the High Priest very justly remarks: "To such a proposal I can only say that the formation of such a Board is, I fear, not at all practicable. The introduction of representative men in the Legislative Council is feasible no doubt. It is, however, absolutely certain that if such a Board be formed, * * * * no member would be elected, who would carry any influence in religious and social matters with the vast majority of the people."

THE recent scandals in connexion with the management of the Punjab University afford a notable commentary on the policy of multiplying Universities in this country. Our objection has always been that such multiplication would do no good, but do positive harm in a variety of ways. The great object of a University should be to affix a hall mark on our educated men in every part of the country, in other words, to fix standards in such a way as to secure perfect uniformity, and this can be best effected by a central authority. The greater the number of centres, the greater the risk of diversity in the standards. It is unavoidable that different groups of men should under some plea or other fix different standards, and yet use the same designation everywhere. This is well known to be the case in Great Britain; in India the evil must be greater. And so glaring is the diversity in the case of the Punjab University, that the Calcutta University has openly and officially declined to recognise the Punjab degrees and certificates. But apart from it, the difficulty in this country of organising competent examining boards is in some centres serious, and the assay therefore of our educational wares cannot be satisfactorily conducted. So glaring is also this defect in the Punjab that during the last eighteen months four different examinations had to be cancelled. The first was the Middle School examination of 1886; the second, the Law Examination of that year,; the third, the Entrance examination of 1887, and the fourth the First Arts Examination of this year. The *Englishman* in commenting upon this justly remarks:—"The question that naturally suggests itself in a critical time like this is, What steps are being taken to prevent a breakdown for the future? Will the Senate, if necessary, go so far as to make a sacrifice in order to arrange for the thorough and efficient conduct of the examinations for a time? Is that august and learned body as much aware as the outside world of the figure the University is cutting? Is it conscious that there is one weak point, viz., the conduct of the examinations, upon which its credit is well nigh wrecked beyond redemption in the opinion of onlookers? Is it going to adopt determined measures to set things right? No! It is decided to appoint a temporary Registrar for the time being, and to obtain, if possible, from England, a promising Oriental student who will be able to bring his acquaintance with Oriental languages into use as Superintendent of the Oriental College, and as soon as he sets foot in Lahore to hand over to him, though a perfect stranger, the Registrarship with all its responsibilities, and all its intricate arrangements." Can we with these facts before us reckon upon any better result for the new Allahabad institution? We would fain hope that its working will prove different, but have we any tangible ground for cherishing such a hope?

THE Railway Conference which was to have been held in Calcutta in February next shall instead be held at Simla in August. The bracing Simla air helps official deliberations a good deal, it must be supposed.

WE have been requested to announce that at a meeting of the Bengal National League Calcutta Branch held on the 20th inst. at the house of the late Maharaja Kamal Krishna Bahadoor, under the presidency of Maharaja Raj Krishna Shing Bahadoor of Susang, the following gentlemen have been elected as delegates to the 3rd National Congress to be held at Madras:—

Maharaja Raj Krishna Sing Bahadoor, Maharaja Kamal Krishna Sing Bahadoor, W. C. Bonerjee Esq, Kumar Nila Krishna, Kumar Benaya Krishna, N. N. Ghose Esq, J. Ghosal Esq, Baboo Shambhoo Chandra Mookerjee, Kali Charan Banerjee, M. A. B. L., Joygovinda Shome, M. A. B. L., Moti Lal Ghose, Sita Nath Roy, Satyadhone Bonerjee Vidyaratna M. A., Dr. Brojendra Nath Banerjee, Baboos Gopal Chandra Mookerjee, Bhupendra Nath Basu M. A. B. L., Jasoda Nath Pramanick M. A. B. L., Pulin Behary Sircar, Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, Ramlal Banerjee, Atul Behary Dutt, Ramlal Satia, Kanailal Khan and Jotirindra Nath Tagore.

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Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—23rd November 1887.

GENERAL.—Babu Sant Prasad, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Champarun, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector under section 4 of Act VII (B. C. of 1880 in that District.

Babu Mellini Prasad Singh, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector under section 4 of Act VII (B. C.) of 1880 in that District.

Mr. G J R T Dalton, Magistrate and Collector, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector Murshidabad, during the absence, on furlough, of Mr. J. Anderson, or until further orders.

Mr. W B. Martin, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Gopalgunge, Sarun, is transferred temporarily to the sudder station of that district, with effect from the afternoon of the 27th ultimo.

Mr. R W Carlyle, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Sewan Sub-Division of the Sarun District is appointed temporarily to have charge also of the Gopalgunge Sub Division of that District, with effect from the afternoon of the 26th ultimo.

Mr. T L L Jenkins is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, and is posted to the sudder station of the District of Gya, on being relieved of his appointment as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Dinagepore.

Mr O R Marriott is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, and is posted to the sudder station of the District of Patna on being relieved of his appointment as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Murshidabad.

Mr S S Jones, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to the sudder station of the District of Murshidabad, on being relieved of his appointment as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Birbhum.

Mr F H Barrow is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Jessore, on being relieved of his appointment as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Chumparun.

Mr A D B Gomess was employed temporarily as a Special Deputy Collector in the District of Hughly for acquiring land for the port Commissioners of Calcutta on Howrah foreshore, and exercised the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in the District of Hughly from the 4th July 1887 to 19th September 1887.

Babu Boloram Bose, Sub Deputy Collector, Banki, Cuttack, is allowed leave for one month under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Babu Surya Kumar Agasti, Assistant Magistrate and Collector Arrareah, Purneah, is transferred to the sudder station of the District of Rajshahye.

Mr N K Bose is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collectors, and is posted to the sudder station of the District of Backergunge, on being relieved of his present appointment as Officiating District and Sessions Judge of Noakhally.

Babu Baroda Churn Mitter, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Pubna is allowed leave for one day, under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 6th September 1887.

Babu Baroda Churn Mitter Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Pubna, is transferred to the sudder station of the District of Mymensingh.

Mr C Owen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Goalundo Sub-Division of the Furridpore district.

Babu Ram Churn Mullick, Munsiff of Sundip Noakholly, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Mr E M Reily, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector) Purneah, is vested with powers under section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Babu Bungshi Dhur Bannerji, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rungpore, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class.

Babu Rajendra Nath Dutt, third Munsiff of Patuakhally in the District of Backergunge, is vested temporarily with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 50, within the local limits of the Patuakhally Munsiff, during the absence of Babu Bhugobutty Churn Mitter, Second Munsiff of that Chowkey.

The under-mentioned gentlemen are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates for the Bench at Rampore Hat, in the District of Birbhum, and are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class:—

Moulvi Abdul Subhan, Mr R M Young, and Babu Benode Behary Singh.

Babu Poresh Nath Bannerji, Small Cause Court Judge and Subordinate Judge of Bhaugulpore, is allowed leave for one year, under section 128 and 141, chapter X of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 15th August last.

Babu Tulsi Dass Mukerji, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.

Rajah Ram Narain Singh, Honorary Magistrate of the Jamuni Branch, in the Monghyr District, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation tendered by Babu Srikanto Kar of his appointment as an Honorary Magistrate of the Balasore Bench.

Mr G K Lyon, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Kurseong, Darjiling, is vested with the following powers:—

Powers of a Magistrate of the first class in the Kurseong and Terai (Phansewah) Thannas, and power of a Sub-divisional Officer under section 66 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Powers under sections 110 and 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure

Powers of a Small Cause Court Judge to try suits of value not exceeding Rs. 50 in the Kurseong and Phansedewah Thannas.

Advertisements.

NOTICE.

Unemployed ex-students of Seebpore College are requested to furnish the Principal with their addresses.

NOTICE.

Wanted an Overseer for the Sylhet Municipality. Pay Rs. 50. Horse allowance Rs. 15. None need apply who has no professional knowledge.

Applications, with copies of testimonials, will be received by the undersigned up to the 15th December 1887.

DULAL CHANDRA DEB,
Vice-Chairman,

Sylhet, Municipal Office,
Dated 15th November 1887.

THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, 1887.

THE Madras Committee beg to announce that the third Indian National Congress will be held at Madras in accordance with the resolution No. XIV adopted at the last Congress held at Calcutta in 1886. The days of meetings as already announced will be 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, December 1887. The several Standing Committees, public bodies and the Secretaries of the public meetings to be held for the appointment of delegates are requested to communicate to the undersigned, in a tabular form like the one below, the particulars regarding the delegates. As for any special arrangements which the delegates may require during their stay at Madras they may communicate to the undersigned.

Presidency.	Province, District or City.	Name in full.	By whom and when elected.	Occupation.	Remarks.

M. VIRARAGHAVA CHARIAR,
Secretary,
100, MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.

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	পূর্ণমূল্য	সুলভ
রুক্মিণী হরণ (নাট)	॥০	।০
চক্ষুদান (প্রহসন)	।০	৵০
বুঝলে কিনা ? ঐ	॥০	।০
উভয় সঙ্কট। ঐ	।০	৵০
যেমন কর্ম্ম তেমনি ফল। ঐ	।৵০	৶০
লালকুঠি (উপন্যাস)	॥০	।০
লাড়ুগোপাল ঐ	।০	৵০
বণিক দুহিতা (গীতিকাব্য)	।০	৵০

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Printed and Published by PRIYA NATH DAS, *at the* HINDOO PATRIOT PRESS No. 2, SCOTT'S LANE CALCUTTA.